

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-3, drawn to a hydrophobic fumed silica; and

Group II, claims 4-7, drawn to a method for producing a hydrophobic fumed silica.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-3.**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

**DEC 10 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant